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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCHNo. 33July 9, 1958

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From: AmEmbassy BAGHDAD
 To: Department of State, Washington

Ref: Embassy despatch No. 1195, June 18, 1958

35 ACTION
 7-17 NEA-4 / F / CIA (12) / RUIR-2 IRC-8 EUR-5 IO4 246-1 246-2
 251A-10 OCB-1 OSD-4 ARMY-4 NAVY-3

Subject: Encroachment of Derbendi Khan Reservoir on Iranian Territory

Subsequent to preparation of the despatch under reference which stated that the Derbendi Khan reservoir when completed would not encroach on Iranian territory, information has now become available to the Embassy through a reliable source indicating that, in fact, the lake behind the dam will extend into Iranian territory and will do more than simply raise the level in Iran of tributary streams (as stated by Director General Political Affairs MUMAIYIZ).

It appears that the First Technical Section of the Development Board informed the Board in January, 1956, that some Iranian territory would be inundated, although apparently this information was apparent from the engineering consultant's report submitted in 1954. However, there was a further delay, until March, 1957, in informing the Iranian Embassy in Baghdad about the encroachment of the reservoir. The Iranians are currently requesting reports and information on Derbendi Khan in connection with the flooding by the dam's reservoir and the reports, if given to the Iranians, may indicate that the Government of Iraq, in fact, knew as far back as 1954 that there was a probability of flooding Iranian areas.

For the Ambassador:

Nicholas G. Thacher
 First Secretary of Embassy

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